

missionaries; that you could get no work done on the Sabbath; and as to the women, money would not buy them? But chastity and piety were not a sufficient defence against the wiles of a few of our English visitors, and the daughters of Africa have oft fled to my house, and the houses of our principal men, to escape from vile and drunken attacks.

"Captain Burton, I do fearlessly and cheerfully assert, from long connection with the church in Fernando Po, that it is Christian women were, as a body, an ornament to their sex, and noted for unostentatious piety and steadfast faith.

"Enough of the island! Go to Bimbia. On its hill side lived Moindu, who, in visage and life, reminded one of the degrading epithets your would-be learned men apply to these Africans. The story of a Saviour's love was told her again and again. At the end of a few months she came to the teacher, with a heart nearly bursting with emotion, and in broken utterance said, 'The teacher has told me much; I heard not these things before; my eyes begin to open; but the teacher comes no more; will he leave me to perish? who else can help me? Oh tell me more of Him who died to save.' That woman did hear more: she became a lowly disciple, and for years adorned the Christian life, and died in the hope of a life beyond the grave.

"Moindu was not alone in the Christian path at Bimbia; men and women soon joined in the worship. Many are dead. The devoted teacher too is dead, but some still live, and are faithful to their profession.

"On the banks of this river lived Ediker, a chief. He was a Pagan; but was he an 'animal'? For years he listened to the Word of Life. He thought much about it. He asked questions. Instruction was not lost on him. He became intelligent and inquisitive. He was oft with me. At length he said, 'Teacher, I am in the dark. I hear all you say: I feel it is true. But you English have had the Bible a long time; why did they not send it to my father? They sent ships; they bought and stole our people and slaves. Then they stopped and began to buy oil. They bring us cloth, and guns, and powder, and rum. They rob us; they cheat us; they kill us; rum makes the young men quarrel, and it kills the old. Your people do not fear God; they do not believe the Bible! How is this? I am troubled for my father. He was a good man. He did not steal, nor cheat, nor kill. But he never heard of the way of life by the Lord Jesus. No one ever told him; and where is He? Time would fail me to tell the tenth part of his words; yet I may ask you, was this questioning, thinking, and finally believing African, an ape? He became a convert; and where is the man who can point out a failing in that man's Christian life—even to the day of his death?

"And what a tale, too, might I tell of 'Ntepe,' of 'Tondi,' of 'Longe,' of 'Nkwe,' of 'Ngwa,' of a multitude, the living and the dead! And that body of converts who around us—they are defective in knowledge; they oft err through ignorance; and to teach and lead them in the right way is our constant work. And you or any other man shall have our thanks if you reveal to us a single wrong act. It shall not be unredressed a single hour.

"Captain Burton, I must close. I shall take an early hour to speak of Africa's 'ignoble literature' if it be possible. In the meantime we part. I revere the memory of the dead—missionaries and converts. I respect the living, whom I see struggling with difficulties, afflictions, and toils, and who are daily and manfully contending with temptations and evil influence; and in the name of the dead and the living, as well as my own, I hurl back upon you the gross calumnies you have uttered against African converts.

"ALFRED SAKER,
"Missionary at Cameroons."

Christian Messenger.

HALIFAX, NOVEMBER 15, 1865.

THANKSGIVING.

To-morrow is to be observed as a day of public Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the blessings we enjoy. And surely if any people have reason for this we have. The goodness of God should lead us to deep repentance and sincere sorrow that we are so little deserving of so much good, and that we so frequently forget the Hand that supplies so many favors. We see from time to time the slight tenure on which all prosperity amongst the nations hangs, and how easy it would be for our Heavenly Father to withdraw from us the mercies by which we are surrounded. No people in the world have a greater amount of civil and religious freedom; and this, with the bounties of Divine

Providence, call for heartfelt acknowledgment and Thanksgiving from all the people.

FREE SCHOOLS IN HALIFAX.

The Commissioners of Schools for the City of Halifax have accomplished a good work in making the Schools receiving Provincial aid *Free to all*, as may be seen by advertisement in another column. Henceforth no pupils will be required to pay fees for admission. This we regard a very important movement, and one pregnant with consequences to our city which we cannot now begin to foresee.

It is not contemplated at present we believe to levy the Sectional Assessment of the City, but to take the Provincial Grant together with the City Assessment for Schools,—equivalent to the other County Assessments—and with these to pay the whole salaries of the Teachers of these Public Schools. For many years past there has been a large portion of Free Scholars in all the schools—both Catholic and Protestant. As however these were admitted by way of charity it was rather detrimental than otherwise to the Schools. Being made free by law, places them in a very different position before the public, and it will be now for the Commissioners to demand a respectable standard of instruction and discipline in the Schools, so as to render the arrangement a satisfactory one to those who send their children to them, for education. Great vigilance and faithful inspection will be required. The religious and other bodies who have heretofore had charge of them will not now have to provide the funds for keeping them in operation, and, whilst the city is greatly indebted to them for the school houses at present occupied, it will be for the Board to see that that the schools shall henceforward have more of a public character than formerly, whilst depending on their patrons and the pupils for support.

Now that the first step is taken we shall look forward to a march of improvement which will bring the Halifax schools to be models for the other parts of the province.

It makes great difference to some people through what channel they obtain their information. What is said by one person or party is often denounced, but when the same thing is said by others, it is good doctrine. The Editor of the *Witness* has heretofore denounced the movement for the Revision of the English Version of the Scriptures, and has charged its promoters with undermining the confidence of the people in the Word of God. Now, however, the *Edinburgh Review* has an elaborate article on the subject, he admits that a very strong case is made in its favor, and pronounces "Revision justifiable and desirable." He even admits that the work issued by (what he chooses to designate) the "Baptist" Bible Union "is on the whole highly creditable." His eyes will, perhaps, be fully opened if we only have patience with him. He may even come to see that what he sneers at as "unauthorized" is not after all to be so much despised. If it be true, as the writer in the *Review* asserts, that the great obstacle to revision is "neither more nor less than an apprehension lest the correction of known errors in the translation of the Scriptures should eventually bring about alteration in the Prayer Book," we have but little hope of an authorized revision.

We fully agree with our contemporary when he says "Indeed due reverence for the Word of God should induce us to spare no pains to reach the whole truth; lest we should be taking man's blunders for the utterances of inspired wisdom." Light is progressing, and perhaps we shall have it admitted by-and-bye that baptize means immerse, and not sprinkle.

The following despatch from the Colonial Office to His Excellency Sir Fenwick Williams, was published in the last *Royal Gazette*.

It gives plain indications of what is expected by the Imperial government respecting the future of these British North American provinces:

Downing Street, 26th Sept., 1865.

SIR,—I have received the Queen's permission to offer you the Government of Nova Scotia.

It is proposed that you shall be regularly appointed as Lieutenant-Governor in succession to Sir Richard MacDonnell. But as he has been appointed to Hong Kong expressly on the ground that the declared policy of Her Majesty's Government will, if successful, lead to the abolition of the office of Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, it would evidently be inconsistent with that policy to appoint in his place another Lieutenant Governor in the ordinary way.

The temporary administration is likely to last longer than it would be desirable for it to be held by an Officer having other duties, since, on the most favorable supposition, the Act of the Union of the British North American Provinces could not receive the Royal Assent till late in the next Session of the Imperial Parliament.

If I had been required to tender advice to Her Majesty on the subject of an ordinary succession, I should, in all probability, have named some gentleman who, having already served faithfully under this Department, had acquired a claim to favorable notice. If I have submitted the name of a distinguished native of Nova Scotia, whose feelings are warmly identified with the welfare of the Province, I am sure this choice will be felt to be an evidence of the sincere desire of Her Majesty's Government to promote that welfare; while I wish it to be understood that you will consequently expect to hold it, not for the usual period of six years, but only for such shorter period as may be convenient to Her Majesty's Government.

I am sure that Her Majesty's Government could not more show to the people of Nova Scotia their sincere desire to promote the welfare of the Province than by selecting you to fill this office.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
EDWARD CARDWELL.

Lieutenant-General
Sir FENWICK WILLIAMS, K. C. B.

The Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, was held on Monday evening in Temperance Hall. The attendance was not large. Addresses were made by Rev. G. W. Hill, His Worship the Mayor, Rev. Dr. Pryor, Rev. Mr. Geddie, Mr. Russell the Society's Agent, Rev. Mr. Cochran and the Rev. J. J. Joplin.

The speeches were all brief, and appropriate, with the exception of that by Rev. Mr. Hill. Some of his remarks were good, but others were quite out of place at a Bible meeting, and calculated to hurt the feelings of ministers of at least two denominations present,—Methodist and Presbyterian. The venerable President, Rev. R. F. Uniacke, occupied the chair, with his usual urbanity and plain speaking. It was on the whole a good meeting.

We have received some additions to our list of Subscribers, and this day forward copies of the *Messenger* to their address. Those New Subscribers for 1866 who may forward their subscription between this date and the beginning of the year will receive the paper from the first Wednesday after receipt of the same, to the end of 1866.

NEWS SUMMARY.

The R. M. Steamer *Cuba* arrived on Tuesday evening, the 7th inst., with the English Mails. She brings dates to 28th of October.

Our new Lieut. Governor, Sir W. Fenwick Williams K. C. B., came passenger in the *Cuba*. This highly distinguished native of Nova Scotia is the first colonist, we believe, who has ever enjoyed so high a command in these Northern Provinces. His Excellency looks somewhat older than when last in Halifax, and appears still healthful and vigorous. By a despatch, published on his arrival, and which will be found in another column, we learn, that his appointment is a special one, and made in contemplation of the probable future Union of all the British North American Provinces at some early period. This object is one which Her Majesty's Government appears anxious to have accomplished, as best calculated to advance the prosperity and increase and consolidate the power of the British American possessions, ensuring them permanent connection with the mother country, and enabling them if necessary to repel foreign aggression.

The English papers are chiefly occupied with accounts of circumstances resulting from the decease of the late Premier, whose loss is deeply lamented by all parties throughout the kingdom, as well as in most of the Governments of Europe—especially in France and Italy. Earl Russell, the minister for Foreign affairs has been nominated by Her Majesty to fill the place of Lord Palmerston. He will therefore take the place of First Lord of the Treasury and a reconstruction of present Ministry will take place. The New Parliament will meet about the end of January. As the late elections gave a largely increased majority to the existing Administration, Lord Russell will commence his onerous duties under the most favorable auspices.

A few cases of Asiatic Cholera had occurred in England—chiefly at Southampton, but as yet had occasioned little apprehension. The disease had prevailed in Paris to a considerable extent but was evidently on the decrease and it was hoped would wholly disappear with the approach of cold weather.

The Kinderpest, or Cattle disease was also diminishing in England, although in some places still making considerable ravages.

By the latest accounts from Jamaica, we are glad to learn that the insurrection of the blacks in the Eastern part of Island has been got under. It was indeed but very partial although the most barbarous cruelties have

been practised by the insurgents upon several of the white inhabitants.

It would appear that the Fenian panic in Canada has been exaggerated, for although the authorities are taking decisive measures to meet any aggressive movement from the frontier, no very serious apprehension seems to be entertained that any such will be attempted. As in almost all other cases little reliance can be placed in the New York telegraphic despatches.

The weather in the latter part of October and thus far in the present month has been unusually severe. It is very seldom that hard frosts have set in before the end of November.

Notices, &c.

Acadia Athenaeum.

The second Lecture of the Course before the above society, will be delivered in the Vestry of the Baptist Meeting House, Wolfville, on the evening of Thursday, November 23rd, at 7 o'clock, P. M.

LECTURER:—REV. DR. ROBERTSON.

SUBJECT:—"Reminiscences of a tour in Europe."

J. MACDONALD, Cor. Sec.

Acadia College, Nov. 14th, 1865.

Received for Foreign Missions.

[The following note from Rev. B. Scott with \$100 was received by us on Wednesday last. We had much pleasure in forwarding the amount the same day to the Secretary, Rev. Dr. Tupper.—Ed. C. M.]

ONSLOW, Nov. 4th, 1865.

Dear Editor,—I hereby forward per Mr. Robert Nelson, through you for a Native Missionary, under the Superintendence of the Rev. Arthur R. R. Crawley, the following sums:—

From the Sewing Circle of the North River
Section of the Baptist Church of Oslow,
(being the proceeds of a Bazaar).....\$50.00
Mrs. C. C. Scott.....50.00

Yours truly,
B. SCOTT.

The Cape Breton Quarterly Ministerial Conference

Will meet (D. V.) at the Baptist Chapel in Miramichi Bay, on the 25th of Nov. next, at 2 o'clock, P. M. A full attendance of the ministering and other brethren is solicited. Let each one come earnestly praying for God's presence in our midst. All the ministering brethren are requested to meet at the house of the missionary—J. F. Kempton—at 10 o'clock, A. M.

There will, also, be a Sabbath School Concert, held in the chapel, on Friday evening the 24th, at 7 o'clock. We hope our brethren will be present; and some of them address the school.

J. F. KEMPTON.

Letters Received.

Rev. W. H. Porter. C. A. Buckbee. D. Dar-
rack, 1 sub. Rev. T. A. Blackader, 3 subs. \$6.
D. Mosher. W. H. Rogers, \$4. Rev. Dr.
Tupper, \$8. 2 subs. C. Kenedy. W. F. Cut-
ten, Esq., \$20.

General Intelligence.

Domestic.

Arrival of General Williams.

On Tuesday night about ten o'clock, the *Cuba* arrived with His Excellency on board. No demonstration was made on his landing with the exception of his being received by General Doyle, Hon. Dr. Tupper, and members of the government, His Worship the Mayor, and a number of other gentlemen on the wharf.

On Wednesday morning a salute was fired from the citadel, the bells of the churches rang out their merry peal, and a number of flags were hung out in various parts of the city. Twelve o'clock was appointed for His Excellency to take the oaths of office. The streets from the Province Building to Government House, were lined by a detachment of the 16th Regiment, Artillerymen and Engineers, the Volunteer Battalion, the North British and St. George's Societies, the Union Protection Company, the Sons of Temperance, Charitable Irish Society, and the Catholic Temperance Society. The Guard of Honor inside the Province Building was formed by the Dartmouth Volunteer Company.

The State Oaths were administered by the Hon. Provincial Secretary. After the necessary formalities, Mayor Richey was introduced to the Lieutenant Governor. His Worship made a few remarks expressive of the pleasure he and the citizens generally felt in welcoming His Excellency to the province. The City Recorder then presented the Address of the Corporation, to which a suitable reply was given. After a few other presentations the General and suite withdrew and returned in company with General Doyle.

A LEVEE was held at Government House, on Monday last. A very large number of gentlemen, including Officers of the Army, the Volunteers and Militia attended to pay their respects to His Excellency Sir W. F. Williams.

Mr. John Rutherford a gentleman from England is gazetted Inspector of Mines in this Province.

SAD ACCIDENT.—A child between 3 and 4 years of age living near the Wellington Barracks, was left by her mother in a room on Saturday last. By some means her clothes took fire and she was much injured before the fire could be extinguished.